

## **Pets for Vets / PAWSitive Therapy Troupe Unit Visit Guidelines:**

**Hines Veterans Administration Hospital,  
5<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Roosevelt Road  
Hines, Illinois 60141**

### **Extended Care units (ECC) 1B, 1C and 2C:**

**Extended Care Unit 1B: Clinical Nurse Manager 708-202-2598  
Extended Care Unit 1C Nurses' Station: Ext 25091**

**Extended Care Unit 1C: Clinical Nurse Manager 708-202-2248  
Extended Care Unit 1C Nurses' Station: Ext 22599**

**Extended Care Unit 2C: Clinical Nurse Manager 708-202-2614  
Extended Care Unit 2C Nurses' Station: Ext 25104**

**Mary Therese Squeo, Recreation Therapist 708-202-4913 or pager: 708-561-0646**

**Hines VA Hospital is located approximately 1 mile south of the Eisenhower Expressway, and \_ block west of First Avenue, on Roosevelt Rd.**

These are Animal-Assisted Activities visits. Meet the Recreation Therapist in the main lobby of ECC to begin your visit. She will escort you around to each of the units, and help you with your patient visits. ECC Patients range in age from early 20's to mid 90's, with a wide variety of diagnoses, including stroke, Alzheimer's disease, rehabilitation following surgery, inpatient chemotherapy, and hospice care.

Therapy dogs and their handlers do both room visits and group visits in day room areas. Occasionally, demonstrations of obedience / freestyle dancing are done for larger groups of patients.

Patients are required to use hand sanitizer BEFORE they pet your dog. The Recreation Therapist will have hand sanitizer bottles with her during the visit for the patients to use, but always carry your own bottle as well.

Please watch for the green tapes on the room doorframes. These green tapes indicate that the patient (s) in that room are on "Contact Precautions", which means that gloves must be worn when handling drainage bags, dressings, etc. WE ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THESE ROOMS. Dogs can wave "hello" from the doorway only. Hospice patients are usually located on Extended Care unit 2C, although the overflow unit is 1C. If you are interested in visiting hospice patients on a regular basis, you will need to attend the Hospice orientation given by Chris Monari, Hospice Coordinator. Hospice patients are designated as "HPC" on the roster chalkboard in the nurse's station.

Small dogs may be placed on the patient's bed with permission from the Recreation Therapist, while large dogs may do a "paws up" on the bed for visiting. **You must first place a clean sheet or towel on the bed. As you leave, dispose of it in the dirty linen hamper.** Dogs are only allowed on beds in rooms that DO NOT have green tapes on the doorframes, and under the supervision of the Recreation Therapist who is accompanying the visit teams.

**Psychiatric Day Treatment:****Liz Gallichio, Social Work Coordinator 708-202-4128****Building 228, 4 North, Room 4082****Site Leader: Karen Click**

This visit is located in the Psychiatry building # 228. It is the newer 5-story red brick building just to the east of the main 15-story hospital building # 200.

These are Animal-Assisted Therapy visits, directed by the clinical nurse specialist or social worker.

Patients are mostly male, 50 years of age or older, with a variety of general psychiatric diagnoses. Their participation in the Day Treatment program is for an average period of 6 months—so we see the same patients each month, and often make good friends.

The therapy dogs and their handlers encourage positive communication skills by drawing patients out to talk about their life experiences.

Try to get around the room to interact with every patient for at least a few minutes. Encourage them to pet your dog and offer information about its breed, training, care, etc.

Talk about pleasant things. You are there to be a friendly visitor and to provide the comfort that only an animal can provide.

Dogs are allowed on the furniture in the Psych Day Treatment room, but be aware of excessive hair if your dog is actively shedding.

Be prepared to give an informal 5-minute or so presentation about yourself and your dog at the beginning of this visit to the entire group.

**Blind Rehabilitation Center, Blind Rehabilitation Building****Scott Smith, Mobility Coordinator****Nursing Office: 708-202-8387, Ext 22122****Blind Center building, lobby area****Site Leader: Linda Chiaramonte**

**This visit is located in the new Blind Rehabilitation building located in front of the main 15-story hospital building at the front of the East visitor parking lot.**

These are Animal-Assisted Activities visits.

Therapy dogs and their handlers visit with patients in the Blind Center lobby area.

Patients range in age from early 30's to mid 80's, with the most common diagnoses being age related macular degeneration or diabetic retinopathy.

This is an inpatient rehabilitation program, with patients staying in the Blind Center an average of 48 days. Many of the patients still have some residual vision remaining, but they are in rehabilitation to prepare for the complete loss of their vision in the coming months or years.

This is a crowded visiting area, so make sure that each dog has its own space for visiting. Do not allow the dogs to interact with each other—they are there to interact with the patients. Many of the patients will visit while sitting down on the chairs that line the room. Dogs are allowed up onto the chairs to sit next to the patients if they are less than 30 lbs in weight.

Patients enjoy visiting with and petting the therapy dogs while volunteer handlers provide verbal descriptions of the dogs. Positive touching experiences are the highlight of these visits. Verbal descriptions are especially important for those patients who have lost all vision.

## **Spinal Cord Injury units North and South, Spinal Cord building**

**SCI North: Clinical Nurse Manager: 708-202-2020**  
**SCI North Nurses' Station: Building 200, Ext 22020**

**SCI South: Clinical Nurse Manager, 708-202-2035**  
**SCI South Nurses' Station: Building 200, Ext 22035**  
**Recreation Therapist: Jill Kalkofen-Jacobsen 708-202-2250 or pager 708-561-0654**  
**Site Leader for both units: Linda Chiaramonte**

**This visit is located in the new Spinal Cord Injury building located in front of the main 15-story hospital building at the front of the west visitor parking lot.**

Patients are mostly male, ranging in age from early 20's to late 70's. Both SCI units include acute as well as chronic spinal cord injury patients, both paraplegic and quadriplegic. Some are ventilator dependent—many are confined to special therapeutic beds. The General Medical / Rehabilitation unit includes patients recovering from strokes and brain / spinal cord injuries and from various medical conditions.

Be aware of the green tapes on the room doorframes. These tapes mean that the patient (s) in the room is on "Contact Precautions". WE ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THESE ROOMS. Dogs can do tricks in the doorway for patients who would like to see them.

Quadriplegic patients are not unable to physically move their hands to pet a dog, nor do they have sensation in their hands to feel the dog's coat. A small dog can, with the patient's and Recreation Therapist's permission, be placed near the patient's face so that he can feel its soft fur. A clean towel MUST be placed on the bed first, and must be disposed of in the dirty laundry hamper upon completion of the visit.

Those with large dogs must exercise great caution in encouraging a "paws up" on special therapeutic beds. These beds have mattresses often costing thousands of dollars, and a puncture from a paw can be disastrous.

Patients must use hand sanitizer before petting your dog.

Patients on these units depend upon keeping their personal effects within easy reach. If you move ANYTHING near the patient's bedside so that your dog can visit with the patient, make sure that you replace it in the same location when you leave.

## **Main Hospital, 15 East**

**15 East General Medicine Unit: Clinical Nurse Manager, 708-202-2773**  
**15 East Nurses' Station: Ext 21271**  
**Recreation Therapist: Kathy Harms 708-728-8141 or Pager 708-988-3157**  
**Site Leader: Kim Muszynski**

**This visit is located on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor of the 15-story hospital. Follow the signs to the elevator, and take it up to the 15<sup>th</sup> floor.**

These visits are both Animal-Assisted Activities visits.

Therapy dogs and their handlers visit with patients in both room and day room settings. Meet the Recreation Therapy in the lobby of the Spinal Cord building for SCI visits, and up on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor for 15 East visits. The Recreation Therapist will escort you on your visit to the unit. She will have hand sanitizer available for patients to use before they pet your dog but you should carry your own bottle as well.

### **Inpatient Psychiatry Units 2 North and 2 South**

**Kathy Harms, Recreation Therapist**

**Pager 708-988-3157, Cell 708-728-8141**

**Site Leader: Kim Muszynski**

**Building 228, Day Rooms on 2 North and 2 South**

**Since this visit immediately follows the 15 East visit, you will be escorted to the Psychiatry building by the Recreation Therapist, who is also in charge of these Psych units.**

These are animal-assisted therapy visits, directed by the Recreation Therapist. Patients on these units have a wide variety of substance abuse issues. Both units are locked, and teams may only enter with the Recreational Therapist. Patients tend to be in early to middle age, and not physically fragile.

Visits will take place in the unit Day Rooms, which tend to magnify sounds. Dogs should be comfortable with loud voices, which may echo. Many patients may be talking at once, while the room's television is also on at a high volume. Patients may also have snack foods at the tables in the room. This is a wonderful visit, and the patients seem to truly enjoy the dogs. However, this is definitely a very active, noisy environment, not suitable for timid or noise sensitive dogs.

Dogs are allowed on the furniture with permission.

Patients enjoy seeing training and / or tricks demonstrated. Make sure that you get around to everyone in the room to ask if they would like to meet your dog.

### **Loyola University Health Systems**

**2160 First Avenue**

**Maywood, Illinois, 60153**

**Ronald McDonald Children's Hospital:**

**Child Life Specialist: Julie Jones, 708-216-1086**

**4<sup>th</sup> floor: Pediatric Unit Playroom**

**Site Leaders: Donna Angeleri for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds, Barb Kann for 2<sup>nd</sup> Weds and Virginia Sensenbrenner for 4<sup>th</sup> Weds**

**Loyola University Medical Center is located approximately 1 \_ mile south of the Eisenhower Expressway on First Ave.**

**These visits are located in the main hospital building. Park in the parking garage and follow the signs to the main hospital. Enter at the new Russo Pavilion entrance. Follow the arrows on the floor to the main hospital corridor. Halfway down that corridor, the elevators are located to your right. Take the elevator to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The Playroom is across from the Nurses Station.**

These are Animal-Assisted Activities visits under the direct supervision of the Child Life Specialist.

PAWSitive Therapy Troupe interacts with children in the unit playroom in a gated area. Your goal is to provide a non-threatening, pleasant activity for patients, visitors and staff. Visitors, especially siblings of

the patients on the unit, are often encountered during the therapy visit. You may not know whether the child you are visiting with is a patient or a visitor. Provide a visit to anyone who is interested. —siblings often enjoy the therapy dogs as much as the patients do.

A maximum of 3 dogs is allowed for any one visit, due to the small space for interacting with the children. **Because of this small space, do not allow the dogs to visit with each other.** Allow each dog in the gated area its own personal space. The dogs are there to visit with the children, not with each other. Use extreme caution when displaying tricks for the children—make sure your dog has enough space not to bump into the other dogs in the area.

Children ranging in age from infant to age 18 can, with physician orders for pet therapy be brought to the playroom to pet and play with the therapy dogs. Therapy dogs that can display their tricks are always a special treat for the children.

Remember that silence can be a gift. Conversation is sometimes extraneous. Almost all the adults on the unit will be asking the child to do something, or doing something to him. You may be the only one who will allow that child to be quiet and to simply be himself with your animal, and allow him to enjoy a touching experience that is not painful or intrusive.

Be especially careful with boisterous toddlers—keep dogs under close supervision at all times. Children are allowed to give the dogs treats ONLY with open palms under close supervision. **NO “give paw” or “shake” tricks are allowed with the children—have your dog demonstrate these tricks with you instead.** Remain attentive to the interaction between the child and your animal at all times. It is easy to get distracted by adult conversation and miss a potential problem.

The unit staff will make sure that all of the children who have interacted with the therapy dogs wash up before returning to their rooms.

Be flexible and responsive to the unit’s needs. The Child Life Specialist may cancel a scheduled visit if census drops too low or if there are no appropriate patients for a therapy visit. The program coordinator will make every effort to let you know about a cancellation beforehand. Please be sure to check your voice and Email messages on the day of the visit, just in case it has been cancelled.

Occasionally there will be children who are confined to their rooms but who would like to visit with the dogs. In these cases, a Child Life volunteer will escort you to the child’s room. These are the ONLY rooms that you may enter, and you must take direction at all times while in the room from the Child Life specialist and / or volunteer who is accompanying you.

**Complimentary parking is available for PAWSitive Therapy Troupe members. Just tell the parking lot attendant that you are a volunteer in Pediatrics, and you will not have to pay the parking fee. You will be asked to sign and date the park of your parking ticket for validation.**

### **Burn Unit:**

**Child Life Specialist: Julie Jones 708-216-1086**

**Site Leaders: As above for Pediatrics**

These are Animal-Assisted Activities visits.

Children with moderate to severe burn injuries can receive room visits from PAWSitive Therapy Troupe, with a physician order. Dogs and handlers are not allowed in any patient room where donning gowns / masks, gloves are necessary, as per Delta policy.

The Child Life Specialist will escort 1-2 dogs up to the Burn unit for hallway visits under her supervision. Patients especially enjoy seeing the dogs do tricks if they cannot leave their beds to visit in the hallway.

Most children will only be able to watch—because of their severe burns, they will not be allowed to actually pet the dogs.

Unit staff will make sure that all patients who have come into contact with the dogs wash their hands thoroughly.

**Rehabilitation Unit:**

**Nurse Manager, 708-216-4950**

**5<sup>th</sup> floor, Rehabilitation Unit**

**Site Leader: Nancy Pignotti**

**This visit is located in the main hospital building. You will park in the parking garage and follow the signs to the main hospital. Enter at the new Russo Pavilion entrance and go down the main corridor to the elevator. Take the elevator to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.**

These are Animal-Assisted Activities visits. Check in with the Charge Nurse before the visit, and let her know when your visit is over. You will not have staff accompanying you from room to room, as on many of our other visits. This means it is critically important that you check in with the staff to find out which rooms are restricted.

PAWSitive Therapy Troupe makes room visits with patients, who range in age from late teens to early 90's. The most common diagnoses are stroke, head trauma and amputations, as well as hip and knee replacements.

Interacting with the therapy dogs encourages patient mobility, coordination and independence.

If you are interacting with a patient who is in a wheelchair, make sure that the brakes are set.

If you are near someone who is wheeling by, keep your dog's feet and tail out of the way. If you move an overbed table, commode or wheelchair to the side so that your dog can reach the patient for a visit, make sure you put the table back in the same position when you leave.

Do not provide any physical assistance to any patient. Instead, tell him you will find a nurse to help him. This includes even getting a drink of water—some patients may be on a fluid restriction.

**Good Samaritan Hospital**

**3815 Highland Avenue**

**Downers Grove IL 60515**

**Geriatric Psychiatry / Adult Psychiatry units:**

**Paula Moore, Manager, Behavioral Health 630-275-6380**

**Janice Dunham, Recreational Therapist 630-275-6320**

**Site Leader: Wesley Gosselink**

**Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital is located approximately 1 mile south of I-88 on Highland Ave.**

**Park in the back of the Critical Care Pavilion / Cancer Center buildings, and enter at door # 5. Your Good Samaritan ID badge, held near the door security lock, will open the door for you. Follow the stairs down to the basement, and take the 2<sup>nd</sup> elevator that you pass up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.**

This is an Animal-Assisted Activities visit, which includes both adolescent and geriatric psychiatric areas. The unit is locked for patients' protection; you will need to check in at the window of the nurse's station to let them know you have arrived for your visit. Staff will escort you into the unit.

You must wear your Good Samaritan ID badge at all times while in the building.

Because of the limited space for visiting in this unit, the maximum number of dogs allowed is three. No more than one can be a large dog. It is especially important to keep dogs closely supervised at all times. Make sure that your dog has a comfortable 'personal space' for himself—if another dog is getting too close, do not hesitate to warn the other handler.

Patients on these units have a variety of mental health issues, including major depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disease, etc. Their behavior may be occasionally inappropriate or disruptive. Always protect your animal from over stimulation in this environment.

Make sure that you and your dog at least attempt to visit with every patient in the room. You do not want anyone to feel neglected or forgotten. Follow the staff's direction at all times in your interactions with patients.

Do not attempt to bring your dog to any other area in the hospital—stick to your permitted entrance / exit routes only. Therapy dogs are NOT allowed in any other parts of the hospital.

Dogs are NOT allowed on any hospital furniture.

Encourage patients to use hand sanitizer before and after petting your dog. Staff will also help with this task.

You will need to provide yearly proof of Delta registration and vaccination records to the nurse manager so that she can keep them on the unit for her records.

**Fairview Baptist Home:  
250 Village Drive  
Downers Grove, Illinois, 60516  
Laura Witt, Activities Director, 630-769-6206  
Site Leader: Donna Angeleri**

**The Fairview Retirement Village is located approximately    mile south of 63<sup>rd</sup> St, on Fairview Ave in Downers Grove. Turn into the Village at the main entrance, and follow the road past the senior townhouses to the 3 story brown brick building you will see on your left. Park in the parking lot in front of the building, and meet in the main lobby.**

These are Animal-Assisted Activities visits.

Fairview Baptist Home is a 232 bed nursing facility that includes assisted living, intermediate care, and skilled nursing care beds. It also offers respite care, palliative care, and hospice care. There are three levels of Dementia Care units as well.

PAWSitive Therapy Troupe makes room and day room visits on assisted living, skilled nursing care and Freedom Place Alzheimer's units. Have the receptionist page an Activities staff person when you arrive. This staff person will escort you to the units scheduled for a therapy visit that day.

If visiting the end-stage Alzheimer's unit, be sure to ask the staff if there are any patients who have been upset by the dogs in the past. These are patients that you should avoid visiting, unless you have staff supervision.

Staff may have suggestions for particular patients to see. If so, you may wish to visit those patients first, to make sure that you and your dog have the stamina to visit. If you wait until the end of your visit time, your dog may be too tired to do his best.

You are to maintain control of your dog at all times. Remain attentive to the physical interaction between the patient you are visiting and your animal partner. It is easy to get distracted by conversation and miss a potential problem.

Please set limits as needed with patients interactions with your dog. Someone may pet the dog too roughly or may try to feed a treat that you do not allow. Say, “Angel only gets to eat dog food—thanks for thinking of her, but she can’t have that treat”. Or say” You are petting Angel pretty hard. She doesn’t like to be pet that roughly—this is how she likes to be petted.”

Approach patients from the front. It can be startling to have someone with a dog seem to come up from nowhere. Some patients may have tunnel vision or may only be able to see you if you are directly in front of them. You may need to pick up a small dog or gently place a larger dog’s feet up on the arm of a chair or bed in order for the patient to see him.

Encourage the patient to touch your dog. Touch can help the patient focus on you. If the patient seems unable to reach out his hand, you may want to ask if you may help guide his hand to help him pet your dog.

Patients with dementia are exceptionally sensitive to emotion. Keep your tone of voice calm and soothing. Don’t seem impatient or frustrated.

If a patient’s conversation is rambling and difficult to follow, listen to the patient’s tone of voice and facial expressions. Watch for the meaning behind the words and respond accordingly. If you don’t understand, it’s all right to say so. Ask yes / no questions to clarify.

Approach patients naturally, but slowly and calmly. Get the patients’ attention early and point out that you have a dog with you. You may need to verbally and physically call attention to your dog.

Ask for the patient’s name as you begin your visit. Use his name in conversation. This can help the patient focus and maintain his concentration.

DO NOT help a resident to transfer to a bed or chair under any circumstances. If you find a resident on the floor, DO NOT assist them to get up—find a staff member. If there is a resident that is starting to fall, DO NOT attempt to catch him.

DO NOT go into any patient room that has an ISOLATION or CONTACT PRECAUTIONS sign on the door.

Be very careful when visiting that your dogs do not inadvertently scratch the fragile skin of the elderly patients that you visit. DO NOT allow your dog to “shake” or “give paw” unless he does it with you.

Periodic obedience, freestyle and agility demonstrations are also featured. Patients are brought to the TV Lounge on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, or, in good weather, brought to the back lawn area for the demonstrations. Patients visit with the dogs following the demonstrations.

**Mooseheart Academy:  
West side of Rte 31, north of I-88  
Mooseheart IL (near Batavia)  
Sue Grafton, Activities Counselor 630-723-2635  
Site Leader: Kristin Ludwig**

**Mooseheart Academy is located approximately 2 miles north of I-88 on the west side of Rte 31 in Batavia. Enter at the gatehouse and proceed directly to the parking lot in front of the activity enter, You will need to wear the temporary ID badge you receive from the gatehouse guard at all times during your visit.**

Mooseheart visits are designed to be fun, non-threatening and relaxing times for the children to interact with the therapy dogs. Children living at Mooseheart range in age from early elementary school up through grade 12. These children come from chaotic family situations which often include abuse, neglect or abandonment issues. Very few of the children have ever had a pet or their own—hence they may need supervision to learn how to gently behave with an animal. Activities may include double leash walking, petting, and brushing the dogs. Staff will be monitoring the children for improvement in socialization skills during the visits.

These visits are closely supervised at all times by the Mooseheart staff; you may visit ONLY with the children designated for participation in the program. You must check in with the guard at the gatehouse as you arrive and proceed directly to the assigned visit area. You are not allowed to wander the grounds unsupervised at any time, and must leave the facility promptly and directly once your visit is over.

Copies of your Delta ID and rabies certificate will be kept on file by the facility, so you need to bring these copies for Kristin on your first visit to Mooseheart,

### **Little Friends**

**Spectrum Vocational Services and Adult Day Care**

**2316 Wisconsin Ave**

**Downers Grove IL 60515**

**Kori Gruber, Activities Coordinator**

**630-929-2712**

**Little Friends is located approximately \_ mile west of Belmont Rd and \_ mile south of the Burlington Railroad tracks in Downers Grove. From Belmont Rd, turn west onto Wisconsin Ave and proceed about \_ mile to a one-story office building on your right, The building houses multiple businesses, but the sign will list “Spectrum Vocational Services” on it. Turn right into the parking lot and go down the right side of the building, past all the Pace buses that are parked there. Park in the back of the building if you can, so you are not blocked in by the buses. Come back to the side of the building, then, and enter at #2316. You will see the activity room directly in front of you at the rear of the room.**

The Little Friends visit provides mental stimulation, relaxation and fun for adults with autism and other developmental disabilities at the Adult Day Care at the building. Activities will include double leash walking, petting, demonstrating tricks, brushing, as well as simple descriptions about the dogs and / or stories about them. The clients at Little Friends LOVE the dogs, but some can get a bit exuberant, so calm, steady and well-socialized dogs are essential for this visit. The dogs must be comfortable with awkward gaits, loud vocalizations, and occasionally clumsy petting. Clients are NOT permitted to hug the dogs—the staff will help to supervise this.

### **R.E.A.D. Programs:**

**Scheiser Elementary School,**

**5205 Kingston Ave**

**Lisle IL 60532**

**Nicole Nelson, Reading Specialist 630-393-8177**

Scheisher School is located approximately 1 mile west of I-355 and about 3 blocks east of Rte 53. It is about 2 blocks north of Maple Ave. From Maple Ave, turn north onto Kingston Rd. The school is about 2 blocks down on your right. Drive through the first parking lot and behind the school to the second lot, where visitor parking is located. You will see the main entrance in the corner—buzz the office staff to let you in.

**Tate Woods Elementary School****1736 Middleton Ave****Lisle IL 60532****Beth Parker, Reading Specialist 630-493-8081 or 630-668-7448 home****Site Leader: Mary Beth Turek**

Tate Woods school is located about 1 mile west of Rte 53 and 3 blocks north of Ogden Ave in Lisle. From Ogden Ave, turn north onto Schwartz Ave (there is a stoplight there). Proceed about 2 blocks to the end of the street. The school parking lot will be on your left. The school entrance is at the western-most door. Buzz the office staff to let you in.

**Hodgkins School****6516 S. Kane Ave****Hodgkins IL****Becca Schaefer, READ Coordinator 708-482-2740****Site Leader: Diane Lauer**

Hodgkins school is located about 1 \_ mile east of LaGrange Rd and I-55. Go east on LaGrange Rd to 67<sup>th</sup> St. Turn right, and go \_ mile to East Rd. Turn left on East, and then right on Cobb Ave, then left again onto Kane Ave.

**Maplebrook School****1630 Warbler Drive****Naperville IL 60565****Lynn Matyas, Reading Specialist 630-420-6381 or 630-896-5295****Site Leader: Karen Click**

Maplebrook School is located about \_ mile south of 75<sup>th</sup> St and 3 blocks west of Bailey Rd in Naperville. From Bailey Rd, turn right (west) onto Bluebird Lane and follow it to Warbler Dr. You will see the school on your right. Park in lot in front of the school, and enter at the main door. Buzz the staff to let you in.

**Briar Glen School****1800 Briarcliffe Blvd.****Wheaton IL 60187****Robin Dye, Reading Specialist****630-665-7110**

Briar Glen School is located approximately 2 miles west of I-355 and \_ mile north of Briarcliffe Rd. Turn north at the stoplight at Briarcliffe Rd and proceed \_ mile to the school. Park in front of the school and proceed up to the main entrance and buzz the staff to let you in.

**For all of these schools meet at the school office, where you will sign in as a visitor**

These are animal-assisted therapy visits, where the therapy dogs work under the direction of the reading specialist or teachers. Specially selected children practice reading out loud to the therapy dogs. The dogs

provide a non-judgmental and caring environment where children can practice reading in a fun, motivational way. Most children read to each dog for 10-15 minutes. Books have been pre-selected and the children usually have practiced with their books the week before the dogs come for the visit. Dogs must be able to settle in a “down stay” position for 1-2 hours, and remain calm while many children in turn practice their reading. The children always love tricks, and the dogs may show off their special tricks at the conclusion of a reading session.